

***Remarks***

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-4, 7-9, 12, and 14-30 are pending in the application, with independent claims 1, 21, and 22. Claims 1-2, 4, 7-9, 12, and 14-29 have been amended to distinguish over the cited references. Claim 3 is sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claim 30 has been added. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

***Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112***

Claim 25 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Page 5 of the Office Action states; "[r]egarding claim 25, the addition of the word 'type' to an otherwise definite expression extends the scope of the expression so as to render it indefinite." (*see*, Office Action dated April 20, 2006, Page 5). Claim 25 as previously presented does not use the word "type." Applicants respectfully request Examiner either to further clarify this rejection as it relates to claim 25 or withdraw this rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Amdt. dated December 15, 2006  
Reply to Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment

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***Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103***

Claims 1-4, 5-6, 9, 12, and 14-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,209,016 to Hobson et al. (hereafter "Hobson") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,237,016 to Fischer et al. (hereafter "Fischer").

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the additional features not taught by the cited references. Accordingly Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be removed and that claim 1 and dependent claims 2-4, 9, 12, 14-20, and 23-29 be passed to allowance.

Claims 21 and 22 are amended to incorporate additional steps not taught by the cited references. Accordingly Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be removed and that claims 21 and 22 be passed to allowance.

Claims 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,209,016 to Hobson et al. (hereafter "Hobson") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,237,016 to Fischer et al. (hereafter "Fischer") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,064,740 to Curiger et al. (hereafter "Curiger")

Claim 7 and 8 depend upon independent claim 1. Claim 1, as amended, contains additional features not taught by the cited references. Accordingly Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be removed and that claims 7 and 8 be passed to allowance.

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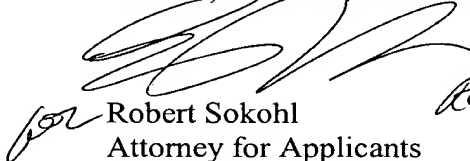
***Conclusion***

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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